

- White-tailed Black Coekatoo, *Calyptorhynchus baudinii*
 Sept. 26th, 1967, 2 flew across the river heading north.
- Twenty-eight Parrot, *Barnardius zonarius*
 Visits the landward side of the area.
- Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo gigas*
 Visits the landward side of the area.
- Sacred Kingfisher, *Halcyon sanctu*
 Sept. 23rd, 1967, 1 on a bush near the Point.
- Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*
 Oct. 12th, 1968, c.20 hawking over the 'lagoon' area.
- WELCOME Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*
 Seen frequently over the 'lagoon' and along the shore.
- Tree Martin, *Petrochelidon nigricans*
 Seen over the 'lagoon' but not so frequently as WELCOME Swallow.
- Australian Pipit, *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
 Seen in the summer of 1967. Sept. 29th, 1967, 1 in display flight.
- Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina novaehollandiae*
 1 on landward side of 'lagoon' Jan. 18th, 1967.
- Little Grass-bird, *Megalurus gramineus*
 Dec. 20th, 1966, 1 heard among reeds fringing 'Lagoon'.
- Blue Wren, *Malurus sp.*
 1 female seen and other birds heard among thick bushes on the landward side of the 'lagoon'.
- Western Warbler, *Gerygone fusca*
 Oct. 18th, 1967, 1 heard among bushes near the Point.
- White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons*
 Nov. 29th, 1967 a party of six. Oct. 12th, 1968, 2 females.
- Silvereye, *Zosterops gouldi*
 Frequently found in the area behind the Point.
- Singing Honeyeater, *Meliphaga virescens*
 Often seen among bushes and trees behind the Point.

NOTES ON THE FAUNA OF YUNDURUP IN EARLIER DAYS

By BRIAN HUTCHISON. Woodlands

In view of the faunal surveys now being carried out by members of the Western Australian Naturalists' Club, in connection with the establishment of the Club's field station on Culeenup (or Mill) Island (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 11 (7), 1970: 160) it may be of interest to place on record some observations I had previously made on the natural history of the area. In my early youth I spent a considerable time at Yundurup, holidaying with my family. The years covered were between 1940 and 1942. We were camped one mile east of the main store at South Yundurup.

MAMMALS

Brush-tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)—These were seen in an old Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) in front of our cottage.

? Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*)—I can remember seeing small wallabies on the mainland but at this lapse of time I am unable to confirm the species. They were most likely the Quokka. In his study of the decline of mainland populations of this species S. R. White (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 3 (5), 1952: 101) placed the time of their elipse during the late 1930's.

BIRDS

The only species I can recall, which are not already on the Club's avifaunal lists, are the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) and the Brown Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The owl was seen on Culeenup Island; it seared

the wits out of me when we visited the Old Mill and the bird flew out of the door, swooping low over our heads. This was, of course, before the clumsy "restoration" when the entrance was sealed up. The bittern would be seen standing with head erect, as it perched on *Casuarina* trees along the river bank. I now realise this is a more likely habitat of the Black Bittern (*Dupetor flavicollis*) but I vividly recall the strongly streaked underparts.

REPTILES

I can remember Aborigines, from their vantage points on the overhanging trees, spearing fish and Long-necked Tortoises (*Chelodina longicollis*).

Small specimens of the Goanna (*Varanus gouldii*) were seen on the mainland.

FISHES

We used to make excellent catches of fish in the river channels. Today catches have fallen off remarkably. I recently tried to catch a small feed of fish in the river, but the only fish present was the Blow-fish (*Spheroides pleurogramma*) and even these were scarce. The species taken by us in the old days were as follows:

Cobbler (*Cnidogobius megastoma*).—Fairly common in the river channels, particularly after the first winter rains.

River Garfish (*Hyporhamphus regularis*).—Occasional shoals of small fish were seen during the summer months.

Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*).—River and Sea Mullet were very plentiful, being present in large shoals. The professional fishermen took large quantities in their nets in Peel Inlet. These fish are prodigious jumpers and we occasionally found one in the bottom of our moored boat. The wife of one of the local fishermen received a black eye when she was rowing across the river. A large Sea Mullet, disturbed by the boat, jumped out of the water and struck her in the eye; the resultant damage was far greater to the human than to the fish, which fell back overboard.

"Pilchard" or Yellow-eyed Mullet (*Aldrichetta forsteri*).—Always appeared to be common in the summer, with regular catches being possible. The fish were not very large.

Yellow-tail (*Therapon eudavittatus*).—The largest we caught was over one pound; this fish was common in all seasons.

Sand Whiting (*Sillago schomburgkii*).—This was not common in the river, but some good catches were made in the summer.

Tailor (*Pomatomus saltator*).—Very common during the summer months; they helped to make up the bulk of our catch when other fish were off the bit. Their size was about three to the pound.

Kingfish (*Sciaena antarctica*).—The largest we caught weighed 14lb., with another 11lb. In one memorable week in January we caught over 90 Kingfish in six days. Many fish over 40lb. have been caught in the river. One woman was towed downstream by a large Kingfish before it broke free from the line she had tied to the boat.

Black Bream (*Mylio butcheri*).—These shy fish were reasonably common in the river. However they were very cunning and not an easy fish to land. They are a wonderful fighting and table fish and it was a proud day when a good catch of Black Bream could be brought home. We caught fish up to 4lb. I can recall seeing a catch during early winter of four large bream over 5lb. each; one was reputed to weigh over 6lb.

Flounder (*Pseudorhombus sp.*).—An extremely rare fish in the river, though an occasional one was caught in the summer.

CRUSTACEA

Crabs (*Portunus pelagiens*).—The Blue Manna crab was always plentiful in the summer and often reached plague proportions.

Greasy-back Prawn (*Metapenaeus dalli*).—Prawns were very thick; a feed was always possible even when using a dip net.

Shrimps (*Palaemonetes australiensis*).—These were very common amongst the hair-like weed that grew in the shallows in the river channels.